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NSC BRIEFING Approved For Release 2002/02/12 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000700030013-3

BACKGROUND

BLOC TRAINING FOR ARABS

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- I. Recent reports on the total number of Egyptian army, navy and air-force personnel training in the bloc vary from 100 to 1,400. A reasonable estimate of the actual total number would be 400.
- II. Two hundred Egyptian naval officers and non-commissioned officers have been receiving training under Soviet supervision at the Polish port of Gdynia since the beginning of this year.
- III. Information on the number of Egyptian army and airforce personnel receiving training in the Soviet bloc is much less firm.
 - A. Some Egyptian pilots have already been trained in Czechoslovakia. This program began last fall and appears to be continuing.
 - B. Arrangements are also known to have been made for the training of other Egyptian air force personnel and tank and artillery personnel in the Soviet bloc, but the number actually now in training there is not known. It seems probable that such training is taking place in Czechoslovakia and Poland, rather than in the Soviet Union itself. This arrangement would permit the USSR to continue to claim that the arms deal is a direct commercial arrangement between these Satellites and Egypt.
- IV. In addition, Egyptian arms missions of unknown size have been sent to Czechoslovakia and Poland and presumably also to the USSR.

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DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. 1.1
DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TO S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
DATE: 7/27/80 REVIEWER: 372044

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- V. At least 100 Soviet bloc arms specialists and technicians (Czechs and Soviets masquerading as Czechs) are known to be in Egypt helping assemble the Soviet bloc equipment as it arrives and giving instruction in its use and maintenance. There is some evidence which suggests that the number may be as high as 200.
- VI. There is no evidence that military personnel of other Arab countries have yet been sent to the Soviet bloc for training, or that Soviet bloc arms specialists or military experts have been sent to the other Arab countries.
- VII. Now that Syria has contracted with Czechoslovakia for arms
- 25X1B [REDACTED] with some shipments having already taken place, Soviet bloc specialists can be expected to arrive in Syria in the near future and Syria can be expected to send some military personnel for training in the Soviet bloc, probably in Czechoslovakia.

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